



Louisiana Department of Health
Health Plan Advisory 16-33
November 29, 2016

Papanicolaou Test (Pap Test) Age Criteria

This advisory provides notification of changes in age criteria for coverage of the Papanicolaou test (Pap test). The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines (ACOG) does not recommend cervical cancer screening for women younger than 21 years of age. Effective with dates of service Jan. 1, 2017 and forward, Louisiana Medicaid fee for service will no longer reimburse for routine cervical cancer screening for recipients under the age of 21 years.

However, Medicaid considers cervical cancer screening medically necessary for recipients under age 21 who were exposed to diethylstilbestrol before birth, have human immunodeficiency virus, a weakened immune system, a history of cervical cancer, or other criteria subsequently published by ACOG.

Providers of laboratory services must submit supporting documentation to the fiscal intermediary to have the age restriction bypassed for a specific clinical situation. It is the responsibility of the treating provider to provide the required documentation needed for billing purposes to the laboratory provider upon request.

Further instructions will follow for Medicaid fee for service claims submission when recipients are younger than age 21 and meet the criteria for coverage.

The Managed Care Organizations must cover services listed on the Louisiana Medicaid fee schedules. Updates to Managed Care Organization changes are plan specific and are the responsibility of each health plan to make appropriate changes to their fee schedule, coverage criteria and prior authorization process.